

**Minutes of the OCASC Secondary School Committee**  
**Thursday, October 9, 2008**  
**7:30 to 9:30 p.m.**  
**Fisher Park PS**

The objectives of the Secondary School Committee are to:

- (a) Increase parent knowledge of and involvement in secondary school education in Ottawa-Carleton;
- (b) Promote the development of school councils and parent associations to represent parents of students in each Ottawa-Carleton secondary school;
- (c) Sponsor and encourage research into and study of education issues and concerns in Ottawa-Carleton secondary schools;
- (d) Formulate recommendations regarding secondary school education in Ottawa-Carleton, and to assist in implementing such recommendations.

**Participants:**

Maria Di Rosa (Woodroffe ES), Lorna Rankin Worley (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), Beth Doubt (SEAC rep, Lisgar), Anne Teutsch (Merivale), Bob Weist (Canterbury), Kate Preston-Thomas (OCASC Budget Committee, Lisgar), Liz Melanson (Lisgar), Brenda Packman (Woodroffe HS), Kris McGarva (Bell), Elizabeth Verbruggen (John McCrae), Prakash Naidu (Brookfield), Nadine Clarke (Canterbury), Jennifer McKenzie (Trustee, OCDSB)

**Agenda covered at meeting:**

Introductions

Agenda and Minutes

Chalk It Up

Reports

Education Committee Reports: June Board Meetings

Considering Topics affecting Secondary Schools

Secondary School Program Review Committee

Trades and Technology

Forward Planning

Survey Results: SSC expectations

The Year Ahead: Issues and Opportunities for /08-/09

Presentations Suggestions

Meeting Locations and Dates

Update: Motion re Grade 9 and 10 Math and Science textbooks

Other business

**Guest Speaker: Jennifer McKenzie, Trustee, OCDSB**

Chair of the Board's French Second Language Ad Hoc Committee

**Secondary Phase of the French as a Second Language (FSL) Review**

- Jennifer outlined the 4 objectives of the French as a Second Language (FSL) Review:
  - a) **Quality of Program**-to improve the effectiveness of delivery & instruction
  - b) **Equity**-to ensure that all students throughout the school district have equitable access to FSL programs
  - c) **Viability** – ensure that FSL programs have viable & sustainable enrolments
  - d) **Financial** – ensure that FSL programs are cost effective
- At the elementary level, the committee looked at data across our board, from other boards across the country and did extensive surveys with parents and teachers.
- The FSL, Elementary Phase, Review Committee also looked at the time allocation model as there was a wide discrepancy amongst schools.
- At present there are 50 – 52% students entering EFI at the kindergarten level but only 15% of high school students choosing French diploma options in high school.
- A review of FSL programs at the secondary level will begin this fall. The process will be the same as at the elementary level.
- At the high school level, surveys are being given to high school teachers regardless of their teaching assignment. These are to be completed in October. Surveys will also be sent to students, but will not be given to parents for this review. Jennifer did acknowledge that it is intended to have input from the Secondary School Committee. Staff will administer the survey to students in class.
- Results will be analyzed by December 2008 with a report detailing the results of the survey submitted to Education Committee by January, 2009. Implementation of changes to the secondary FSL programs will begin in September, 2009.
- Discussion followed which included: i) How do you measure proficiency? ii) Funding at federal government level iii) How do you

measure the quality of instruction and concern about the lack of qualified French teachers iv) Feeling by parents that children of anglophone parents being disadvantaged v) Funding discrepancy between boards vi) Recognize that we are an English school board vii) Questioned whether we gear our education to what parents want versus what educators consider best practices.

- OCDSB has asked to pilot a proficiency test (Canadian). The Canadian Parents for French group has asked to use the existing Ottawa model for proficiency.

### **Chalk-It-Up**

- As a follow-up to motion brought forth by Glebe in May regarding funding for new Grade 9 and 10 Math and Science textbooks, it was decided that there weren't any real concerns at other schools. Therefore, no further action will be taken. However, there was a discussion that courses will be changing and that textbooks may become an issue again. Question was raised as to whether there will be special funding for textbooks in 2009.
- Beth Doubt reported from SEAC that this committee was not formed to deal with individual cases, but to give general information regarding special education and to give contact names where appropriate. It was felt that it would be beneficial to have some kind of forum specifically allocated to special education issues. SEAC will host a forum prior to each OCASC meeting beginning at 6:15 pm. The first forum will be in November before the OCASC meeting at the Board. School councils are encouraged to attend.
- Sir Robert Borden is hosting a presentation on Thursday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m which is open to all parents. A flyer with detailed information has been sent out by Nadine. For more information, parents can contact SRB council members: Elayne Adler at [elayneadler@rogers.com](mailto:elayneadler@rogers.com) or Janet Dionne at [jadionne@magma.ca](mailto:jadionne@magma.ca).

### **Trades and Technology (T&T) Committee Report – Anne**

- This is to be a “clean up year”. A budget of \$636,000.00 has been allocated to finish various committee goals and objectives.
- Last year looked at incorporating T&T into the grade 8 science curriculum. Now looking at doing the same in grade 7.
- Last year money was given to grade 8 teachers for more equipment. More money will be given this year to grade 7 teachers.

- **“Specialist High School Majors Programs” (SHSM)** (Provincial program) : Student would take 10 credits (as part of the 30 credits needed to graduate) over a span of 2 years, typically in grade 11 & 12. Student would receive a certificate on their graduation diploma specifying their specialist area. This is still a pilot project in Ontario.
- We now have 5 house building sites that are part of this specialist program. OCDSB has applied to the province for \$170,000.00 to include the House Building and Manufacturing Tool and Dye programs as part of the SHSM. This program is being marketed as part of the Student Success Program.

#### **Secondary School Program Review Committee Report – Anne**

- No decision has been made as to whether Ad Hoc Committee is to become a permanent Steering Committee.

#### **Forward Planning – Nadine**

- We discussed the conflict of December meeting with OCASC meeting. It was decided that the **December meeting will be deferred to January 8, 2009**. The January meeting will be hosted by Canterbury HS. **Please note change in location for January meeting.**

**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 13, 2009 7:30 p.m.**  
**Fisher Park PS**

Subsequent Meetings for 2008-2009  
(at Fisher Park unless otherwise noted)

November 13  
January 8, 2009 (at Canterbury HS)  
February 12  
March 12  
April 9  
May 14  
June 11

## Action Item Summary

ID	Actions	Assigned to	Date Raised mm.dd.yy	Target Date mm.dd.yy	Status
<b>ITEMS OPENED as a result of this meeting</b>					
A7	Send link to the elementary phase of the FSL Review	Nadine	10.09.08	11.13.08	
A8 from A4	Can you be on school teams if you are in the 5 <sup>th</sup> year of secondary school? If you graduate after 4 years, how does your average calculated with the additional courses?	Nadine	10.09.08	11.13.08	
A9	What new curriculum is expected next year which will require new textbooks? Who's going to pay; province or board?	Nadine	10.09.08	11.13.08	
A10	What is the Sir Robert Borden presentation date?	Nadine	10.09.08	11.13.08	
A11	What is the school policy on parents choice of class timetable for siblings of the same age?	Nadine	10.09.08	11.13.08	
<b>CARRY-FORWARD actions</b>					
A1	Record locations and numbers of students enrolled in focus programs for secondary school (T&T completed)	Anne	09.11.08	11.13.08	Anne reported on the Trades and Technology. Will update after the SS Steering Team meeting
A2	Record those exams which are board wide exams	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	11.13.08	Send information to the SSC
A3	What are schools doing to help students transition to post-secondary education. Consider school councils hosting sessions in which guidance counsellors present options. Check and ask Board to consider preparing a booklet or web based outline for transitioning help	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	11.13.08	Anne updated that the staff is interested but overloaded now. Follow up with timing later
A4	What is the Board position on students taking a 5 <sup>th</sup> year. What are the schools authority to allow or limit	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	11.13.08	Answered than additional questions asked for clarification
A11 of 2007-2008	Check at the end of the SSC term to see if any change to Action # 6 on consultation	All SSC Reps	2007.10.11	2008.06.12	OUTSTANDING
A24 of 2007-2008	Action items 12 and 13: update SSC on gifted centres and mandate at SSPR. Define issues and decisions	Juliet	2008.03.06		uncertain
A06 of 2007-2008	Check whether consultation on program changes occur with their school council	SSC reps	2007.09.13	2007.10.11	Responses that the consultation varies across the board. Some councils are asked

ID	Actions	Assigned to	Date Raised mm.dd.yy	Target Date mm.dd.yy	Status
					for input, some consultation and some no request.
A12 of 2007-2008	Form discussion group to focus on Secondary Gifted Centres issue.	Chairs	2007.12.13	asap	Revised
A13 of 2007-2008	Write, get email okays and send feedback on Secondary Gifted under SSPR mandate to Education Committee	Juliet?	2007.10.11	2008.01.22	Revised
A31 pf 2007-2008	Invite principal(?) from Gloucester HS to speak about LINK pilot project	Chair	2008.05.08	2008-2009	
<b>CLOSED ITEMS as a result of this meeting</b>					
A5	What options are there for students and parents to follow up the evaluation and final report for students (after the school year ends and summer starts). What options to close the feedback loop for students at the end of the school year. Is there a Board process, policy or protocol?	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	10.09.08	No policy or protocol
A6	What is the credit recovery option?	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	10.09.08	Credit recovery, credit rescue and upgrading explained
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